

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1
-- The present application is related to U.S. Application, Serial No. 10/037,017, -filed same day herewith by Yeh-hung Lai, et al and entitled, "APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CUTTING SHEET MATERIALS"--.

Please insert the following paragraph at page 7, line 13 of the specification.

A2
--Fig. 2a is a partial sectional view illustrating an alternative embodiment of a second cutter having a crack initiator.--

Please insert the following paragraph at page 8, line 30 of the specification.

A3
--Alternatively, as shown in Fig. 2a, the second cutter 42 may be provided with a crack initiator 70a.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A4
A method for cutting a laminated web ~~comprising~~ including the steps of engaging a first side of the laminated web with a crack initiator having a high rake angle, the crack initiator extending from a first cutter base having a low rake angle, the laminated web including at least a support web, and an upper layer that may, at least for imaging elements, be considered a protective layer, the upper layer being thinner than the support web, the upper layer being located at the first side of the laminated web structure; simultaneously engaging a second side of the laminated web with a second cutter, the second cutter being offset from the first cutter; generating a first crack in the first side of the laminated web with the crack initiator completely through the upper layer; engaging the web with the cutter base of the first cutter; and further propagating the first crack beyond the tip of the first

As per
concluded

crack initiator using the first cutter base, whereby ~~while disengaging~~ the tip of the
first crack initiator ~~of the first cutter~~ is disengaged from the laminated web.--
